BY J. L. PENNINGTON.

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DAILY PROGRESS.

RALEIGH, N. C.

MONDAY, DEC. 14, 1863.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, December 11, 1863.

EVENING SESSION—HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following bills passed their second reading viz:

A bill concerning Arson.

A bill to incorporate the North Carolina Express Company.

An engrossed bill to incorporate the Salem and High Point Plank Road Company.

A bill to repeal an act, entitled "an act, to change the jurisdictions of the Courts and the rules of the pleading therein," passed at the second extra session of the General Assembly, A. D. 1860-61.

A bill in relation to larceny and robbery.

A bill to increase the fees of of the Special Magistrate of Wilmington.

A bill to amend an act, entitled Revenue.

The following passed second and third reading, viz:

A bill concerning impressments.

A bill to amend an act entitled "Revenue." [Taxing Insurance Companies incorporated out of the State.]

An engrossed resolution in favor of Levi Dawson.

Mr. Henry of Bertie, moved that a message be sent to the Senate, requesting that body to return a bill relative to the Governor's salary, which passed the House this morning, his object being to obtain a reconsideration of the vote by which said bill passed its third reading in the House.

Mr. Grissom moved that this motion lie on the table, which was not agreed to. The question recurring, Mr. Henry's motion to recall the bill was adopted.

The House then took a recess until half past 7 o'clock, P. M.

HALF PAST 7 O'CLOCK. P. M.

The House met and went into secret session, adjourning at its close until to-morrow 10 o'clock, A. M.

SENATE, SATURDAY, Dec. 12.

The Senate met at 10 o'clock. Journal read.

Mr. Arendell from the Committee on Corporations reported a bill to incorporate the Lockville Mining and Manufacturing Company, recommending that it pass.

Mr. Leitch, from the Committee on Education, reported a bill to establish graded schools, recommending its passage.

Mr. Warren from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to amend the act to allow soldiers to vote, recommending that it do not pass.

Mr. Warren presented a bill to pay Judges for holding Courts of Oyer and Terminer $150 each. Passed its several readings.

A bill to allow certain proof of handwriting in the probate of wills, passed its second readings.

A bill to prohibit the raising of cotton and tobacco beyond a certain amount was taken up.

Messrs. Holeman and Lassiter opposed the bill and said that the legislature would transcend their authority by passing any such law. It was a species of despotism.

Mr. Graham said that such restrictions were onerous, and calculated to dissatisfy the citizen. Let the people alone and they would do right, as they had done.

Mr. Sanders moved to postpone indefinitely. Agreed to. Ayes 22; Nays 9.

Mr. Ramsay, from the Committee on Claims, reported a bill in favor of the Trustees of Bladen county, asking to be discharged from its further consideration.

A bill to transfer State troops to the Confederate Government was taken up.

Mr. Bagly said, he hoped the Senate would not pass the resolutions reported by the Committee. In an official capacity he had had something to do with the raising and organization of the troops proposed to be transferred, and he knew that they were raised upon a possitive assurance from the State and Confederate authorities, that they were to be retained in the service of the State, and for special service and local defence in the State; and the passage of the resolution would be a gross violation of faith on the part of the State government. The people in that section of the State, from which he came, had been shamefully neglected, and thereby overrun by the enemy. Left thus to their own defence, they had patriotically organized, without assistance from the Confederate government, to resist and defeat the enemy, who was robbing them of all they possessed; and, now, when they have just organized in such a way as to more effectually accomplish their object, it was proposed to transfer them to the Confederate government. The passage of the resolution would be grossly unjust, and tatamount to disbanding the organization.

The bill was laid on the table.

A bill to tax Express Companies was on motion of Mr. Graham laid on the table.

A bill to punish the breaking of a house in the day time with death, passed its third reading.

Also, a bill to incorporate the Lockville manufacturing Company.

A resolution to prevent illegal impressments.

Mr. Brown said that he would go as far as any one to support the government, but that he was unwilling to surrender every right and submit to the illegal and outrageous acts of certain officials.

The bill passed its third reading.

A message was received from the House concurring in the Senate's amendment to a bill in reference to the wives and families of soldiers.

A bill in relation to an increase of pay to the Governor's messenger, under a suspension of the rules passed its third reading.

A bill to regulate office hours, in certain offices, was read third time and passed.

Engrossed bill in favor of Council Wooten, was read third time and passed.

Engrossed bill to amend sec. 9, chap. 107, Revised Code, passed its final reading.

A message was received from the Commons with the Governor's communication, proposing to appoint a joint select committee to visit the fortifications on the Cape Fear. Not agreed to.

A bill concerning Justices of the peace in the Counties occupied by the enemy.

A bill to incorporate the town of Hickory Tavern, in the county of Catawba, passed its final reading.

A bill to incorporate the Pender Monumental Association, was read first, second and third time and passed.

A bill to transfer the jurisdiction of crimes committed in counties held by the enemy, to counties outside, passed its final reading.

On motion the Senate took a recess till 3½ o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SATURDAY, December 12th, 1863.

The House met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Amis from the Committee on Finance reported a bill to repeal the 11th section of chap. 23 Revised Code; which passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Grissom, for a Select Committee, submitted the following report which was adopted:

WHEREAS, It appears to this General Assembly that organized detachments of Confederate soldiers, under arms, were sent to various precincts in Bertie County, in this State, on the fourth day of November, while the Congressional elections for this State were being held; and whereas citizens of this State were illegally arrested by said detachments of soldiers, and other citizens were thereby intimidated from the free exercise of their clearly defined Constitutional rights; therefore be it

Resolved, That these acts are in violation of the spirit of the Constitution of North Carolina, and deserve the censure of this General Assembly; and that the Governor is requested to lay this resolution before the President of the Confederate States.

Mr. McKay submitted a report from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill to amend "an act for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers," recommending that the House agree to the amendments proposed by the Senate, together with other amendments adopted by the Committee. The House concurred in the report and adopted the amendments.

Mr. Amis, from the Committee of Conference on the bill concerning salaries and fees," submitted a report recommending that the House recede from its amendments to the 1st section of the bill. The report was concurred in.

Mr. Foust introduced resolutions in relation to exemptions and currency. Postponed until the third Tuesday in May next.

Mr. Mann, of Pasquotank, a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to exchange State Treasury Notes for Confederate Notes, with soldiers whose families reside within the enemy's lines. Laid on the table.

Mr. Henry, of Bertie—A resolution authorizing the Governor to demand the return to this State for trial Wm. D. Wynne, a citizen of Bertie, now confined in Castle Thunder, Richmond, Va. Adopted.

Mr. McCormick—A bill to incorporate the Fayetteville Kerosene Company. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Robbards—A bill to incorporate the town of Hickory Tavern in the county of Catawba. Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Also an engrossed bill from the Senate, in regard to the Mutual Insurance Company of the Town of Fayetteville.

A bill to amend an act entitled "Revenue," was amended and then passed its third reading.

An engrossed resolution in favor of H. H. Sanderlin, Sheriff of Onslow County, passed second and third readings; also a resolution in favor of Drury King.

A bill to release and repay taxes paid on property lost. Passed first reading.

A bill to authorize Justices of Carteret and Craven Counties to appoint Commissioners, and for other purposes. Passed first reading.

A bill concerning Justices of the Peace in counties within the enemy's lines. Passed second and third readings.

A bill to incorporate the Trustees of the North Carolina Endowment Fund. Passed its several readings.

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting a communication from Major General Whiting, in relation to the fortifications of Wilmington, &c., asking the appointment of a committee to visit and inspect said works. Sent to the Senate with a proposition to raise a Committee of Inspection.

ENGROSSED BILLS.

A bill in relation to the payment of Judges holding Courts of Oyer and Terminer. Passed its several readings.

A bill explanatory of act to admit proof of handwriting of attesting witnesses. Passed its several readings.

A bill to incorporate the Miners' Mining and Smelting Company. Passed its several readings.

Mr. Joyner (by leave) introduced a bill to incorporate the Pender Monument Association. Passed its several readings.

A message from the Senate transmitted the statement of the Bank of Lexington. Laid on the table—ordered to be printed.

A bill to authorize Courts of Oyer and Terminer.—Passed its several readings.

A bill to punish the breaking of dwelling houses and stealing therefrom in the day time. [Makes this crime a capital felony.] Laid on the table.

The Senate refused concurrence in the amendments made by the House to the bill to amend the act entitled "Revenue," whereupon the House receded from its amendments.

A bill concerning the Home Guard. Passed its third reading.

The House then adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

SENATE, SATURDAY, Dec. 12.

A bill to incorporate the Hilgitor Mining Company.

A bill to exempt certain State officers from conscription.

Mr. Young moved to lay on the table. Not agreed to.

Mr. Outlaw moved to strike out magistrates and militia officers.

Mr. Saunders opposed the striking out and said that these officers were very useful and important for the maintenance of law and order at home.

Mr. Outlaw said he could not see the reason for exempting such officers. They were more engaged in private speculation than public service.

Mr. Ellis opposed the whole bill.

Mr. Leitch was opposed to the amendment; thought the officers enumerated were needed at home for the administration of law and order for home defence.

Mr. Young moved to strike out the clause exempting mayors, constables and county surveyors and deputy sheriffs.

Mr. Young said that his amendment did not include producers; that these officers were generally fit for nothing but the little offices they filled.

Both amendments were rejected.

The bill passed its second reading.

Mr. Wiggins presented a resolution to appoint a Commission to enquire into the state of the Clothing Department of the State, and the prices paid by the Confederate government for clothes, &c., and to fix a tariff if the present one was not sufficient.

Mr. Pitchford presented a substitute, appointing a committee of the two Houses to enquire into the condition of the various departments. Rejected.

Mr. Outlaw offered a resolution fixing the hour of adjournment on Monday at 9 o'lock, A. M.

The bill exempting certain State officers passed its 3d reading.

The Senate adjourned to 7½ o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12.

The House concurred in the amendments proposed by the Senate to the bill to amend an act in relation to the Militia, and a Guard for Home Defence.

A bill concerning Common Schools; a bill to incorporate the N. C. Express Company; a bill to incorporate the Salem and High Point Plank Road Company; a bill to repeal an act, entitled "an act to change the jurisdiction of the Courts and the rules of pleading therein, passed at the second extra session of the General Asssembly of 1860-61; a bill concerning larceny and robbey, and a bill to increase the fees of the Special Magistrate of the town of Wilmington, passed their third reading.

A bill to authorize the Governor to accept the services of Cherokee Indians for the defence of the State.

A bill to authorize the Justices of New Hanover county to fix the rates of ferriage at Big Black Ferry.

A bill to increase the pay of witnesses and jurors; and resolutions requiring Sheriffs to refund certain moneys to the Treasury, passed second and third readings.

A bill to amend an act to incorporate the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company, was indefiinitely postponed.

The House then took a recess until 7 o'clock, P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

SENATE, SATURDAY, Dec. 12.

The Senate met at 7½ o'clock.

BILLS PASSED THEIR THIRD READING.

A bill to incorporate the Cahorta Mining and Smelting Company.

A bill to pay the Governor $500 in foreign exchange.

A bill to establish graded schools in the State was taken up.

Mr. Leitch thought the measure an admirable one and this the time for its adoption.

Mr. Wiggins moved to lay the bill on the table. Agreed to.

A bill to authorize the issue of $400,000 in small Treasury notes.

A bill to define the duties of the Treasurer of the Literary Fund.

A bill to change the times of holding the courts of Jackson county.

A bill to issue duplicate bonds to Elizabeth A. Gordon, of Gates county, in lieu of a like number defaced and disfigured.

A resolution to give C. Kelly, Special Justice of Craven county, a copy of the Revised Code.

A bill to incorporate Palmyra Lodge A. Y. Masons.

A bill authorizing 12 Justices to fill vacancies in the office of sheriff of Jackson county.

A bill to authorise the Governor to accept the services of Indians for State defence.

A resolution protesting against illegal arrests made by armed soldiers at the election in Bertie county was laid on the table.

A bill appropriating $1,600,000 for the military departments of the State.

A bill appropriating $324,000 for the purchase of cotton.

A bill to provide for the trial of cases in counties adjacent when impracticable in the county where the crime is committeed.

A bill to incorporate the Comstock Mining Company.

A bill to tax Insurance Comdanies 3 per cent. on gross receipts.

A bill to authorise the issue of bonds to supply deficiencies in the Treasury.

On motion the Senate adjourned to Monday 9 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SATURDAY, Dec. 12, 7 o'clock, P. M.

A bill to provide for holding the elections and comparing the polls in Counties within the enemy's lines, passed third reading.

The House concurred in an amendment proposed by the Senate, to the bill exempting certain officers from conscription, also, in an amendment to the resolution demanding the return of W. D. Wynne, a citizen of Bertie county, to this State for trial; also, in amendments to a bill to amend an act, entitled Revenue.

A bill to amend the Charter of the town of Charlotte was laid on the table.

A bill to amend chapter 36 of the Revised Code, entitled Currency, passed second and third reading.

Resolutions authorizing the Governor to seize the Cotton Factories and have them operated, on State account, allowing the owners 75 per cent. profit, was laid on the table.

A bill to authorize the Quartermaster of the Home Guard to exchange hides for leather and shoes, passed third reading.

A resolution in favor of R. G. Strickland was laid on the table; also a bill concerning the Wardens of the Poor of Beaufort County.

A resolution authorizing a transfer of independent companies and battalions in the service of the State, to the Confederate Government, was, on motion of Mr. Mann, of Pasquotank, laid on the table.

Mr. Amis, by leave, introduced a bill for the maintenance of the Military Establishments of the State. [Appropriates 3,300,000,] passed first and second readings.

The rules were suspended and the bill was put on its third reading.

Mr. Person moved to amend by reducing the appropriation one h[illegible] Adopted.

Mr. Person also moved to amend by striking out of the bill the appropriation of $50,000 for the support of the Medical Department.

Mr. Person said that he offered this amendment because he gathered from the report made by the Surgeon General a few days since, that the Medical Department was self-sustaining.

The amendment was rejected, and the bill passed its third reading.

Mr. Amis from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill appropriating money for the purchase of cotton. [Appropriates $324,000.] Passed its several readings under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Amis, from the same Committee, reported a bill to provide against a possible defficiency of the Treasury. [Authorises the issue of the State Bonds, the sale of State Treasury Notes, or both, to the amount of two millions of dollars.

Mr. Fleming, moved to amend the bill by striking out the provision that authorizes the sale of Treasury Notes. Not agreed to.

The bill then passed its second and third readings.

The House then adjourned until 7 o'clock, Monday morning.

CAPTIONS OF ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina at its Second Adjourned Session, A. D. 1863.

1. An act to amend the act entitled "an act to consolidate the various acts heretofore passed to incorporate the town of Statesville in Iredell county.
2. An act to incorporate the Pettigrew Monument Association.
3. An act to amend the charter of the North Carolina Christian Advocate Joint Stock Publishing Company.
4. An act concerning the North Carolina Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind.
5. An act to amend an act entitled "an act for the relief of certain Banks of the State and the people.
6. An act to repeal the third section of an act entitled "an act to divide the State into two Congressional Districts.
7. An act concerning Rutherford Academy.
8. An act in relation to the compensation of the tax collector of Johnston county.
9. An act to amend section 85 chapter 34 of Revised Code.
10. An act to authorize A. J. McBride, Sheriff of Watauga county, to collect arrears of taxes.
11. An act to explain and amend section 68, chapter 107 of Revised Code.
12. An act concerning the Insane Asylum.
13. An act in relation to larceny and robbery.
14. An act to increase the pay of witnesses and jurors.
15. An act concerning impressments.
16. An act in relation to the Governor's Message.
17. An act to incorporate the town of Hickory Tavern in the county of Catawba.
18. An act to incorporate the Fayetteville Kerosene Co.
19. An act to increase the fees of the Special Magistrate of the town of Wilmington.
20. An act to incorporate the Lockville Mining and Manufacturing Company.
21. An act to incorporate the Salem and High Point Plank Road Company.
22. An act to incorporate the Pender Monument Association.
23. An act to amend an act entitled "Revenue," ratified the 11th day of February 1863.
24. An act to incorporate the North Carolina Volunteer Navy Company.
25. An act in regard to the Mutual Insurance Company in Fayetteville.
26. An act concerning slave labor on public works.
27. An act to regulate the fees of the Clerks and Sheriff in the county of Guilford.
28. An act concerning Cherokee Lands.
29. An act in relation to depositions.
30. An act to amend an act appoved 20th September, 1861, entitled Militia
31. An act to authorize courts of Oyer and Terminer.
32. An act to allow a fee to the Assistant Clerk in the Treasury for registration of State bonds.
33. An act explanatory of an act to admit proof of the handwriting of attesting witnesses in certain cases.
34. An act to incorporate the Miners' Mining and Smelting Company.
35. An act to provide for the pay of Judges, holding courts of Oyer and Terminer.
36. An act to incorporate the Trustees of the North Carolina Endowment Fund.
37. An act to repeal the 11th section of chapter 23 Revised Code.
38. An act in relation to the crime of arson.
39. An act to incorporate the North Carolina Express Company.
40. An act to amend the 9th sedtion of chapter 101 Revised Code.
41. An act to regulate office hours in certain offices.
42. An act making appropriations for the military establishment of the State. [Appropriates one million, six hundred and fifty thousand dollars—$1,650,000.]
43. An act concerning the office of Sheriff and Clerk of the County Court of Cherokee county.
44. An act authorizing the Governor to accept the services of Cherokee Indians to repel invasion or insurrection.
45. An act to amend an act entitled "Revenue." [Taxes Express Companies five per cent. on gross receipts.]
46. An act to amend chapter 36 Revised Code entitled "Currency."
47. An act to amend an act in relation to the Militia and a Guard for Home Defence.
48. An act to restore the Courts and for other purposes.
49. An act for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers of the army. [Appropriates $1,000,000.]
50. An act further to define the duties of Treasurer of the Literary Fund and for other purposes.
51. An act to exempt certain officers and employees of the State from conscription.
52. An act to incorporate the Comstock Mining and Smelting Company.
53. An act in relation to salaries and fees.
54. An act to amend an act ratified on the 11th day of February 1863 entitled "Revenue." [Taxes Insurance Companies incorporated out of the State *three* per cent. on their gross receipts.]
55. An act to enforce the criminal laws of the State. [Authorizes trials for crimes committed in counties where Superior Courts cannot be held by reason of the presence or proximity of the enemy, before the Superior Courts of adjacent counties.]
56. An act to provide against a possible deficiency in the Treasury. [Authorizes an issue of State Bonds, a sale of State Treasury Notes, or both, to the amount of $2,000,000.]
57. An act making an appropriation to purchase cotton to be applied to purchases in Europe. [Appropriates $324,000.]
58. An act to incorporate Palmyra Lodge of A. Y. Masons No. 147, located in Averasboro', Harnett county.
59. An act concerning the Governor's salary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. A resolution concerning the printing of the Treasurer's Report.
2. Resolution requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to secure an increas of the pay of soldiers.
3. Resolution in favor of John W. Hinson, Sheriff of Duplin County.
4. Resolution in relation to the arrest and imprisonment of Eli Swanner of Beaufort county.
5. Resolution concerning the *per diem* and mileage of the members of the General Assembly.
6. Resolution in relation to sequestered and confiscated lands in North Carolina.
7. Resolution in favor of sick and wounded soldiers.
8. Resolution in favor of Joseph Cobb, Sheriff of Edgecombe county.
9. Resolution in favor of Wm. Patterson, late Sheriff of Alamance county.
10. Resolution in favor of Council Wooten.
11. Resolution requiring certain Sheriffs to refund money into the Public Treasury.
12. Resolution in favor of Levi Dawson.
13. Resolution in favor of Henry H. Sandlin of Onslow county.
14. Resolution in favor of Drury King.
15. Resolution in favor of the Speakers, Clerks, and Doorkeepers.
16. Resolution in relation to impressments.
17. Resolution in favor of Charles Kelly.
18. Resolution relative to Wm. D. Wynne.
19. Resolutions Instructing the Auditor of Public Accounts to inquire whether a better system of keeping the accounts of disbursing officers, and better checks on their accountability may not be introduced, and whether a better mode of cancelling the vouchers of the Public Treasury may not be adopted.

THE DAILY PROGRESS.

VOL. V. RALEIGH. MODDAY. DEC. 14, 1863. NO. 29.

ADVERTISING RATES.

The following rates will be charged for all advertisements inserted in the DAILY PROGRESS:

ONE SQUARE OF EIGHT LINES, OR LESS:			
One day	$1 00	One week	$ 5 00
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Fifty words, or eight lines or less count a square, and additional squares will be charged the same. Advertisements inserted once, twice or three times a week will be charged $2 a square for every insertion.

When sent by letter, the money must accompany the advertisement. Marriages, deaths, religious and other notices charged as advertisements and must be paid in advance.

raid of Gen. Lee. The enemy's loss at Moscow was severe and underrated by us Col Hatch, the house burner, was badly wounded.

Late and Interesting from the North.

RICHMOND, Dec. 13.—The Report of Lincoln's Secretary of War is in the bifalutin Yankee glorification style. He declares the Federal force firmly planted in every rebel State, and reiterates the falsehood of the Yankee agent of exchange of prisoners, which publication and correspondence already published fully establishes, and unblushingly avows the refusal of his government to allow us credit prisoners captured and paroled by Gen. Morgan and other rebel leaders. He says the Yankees have forty thousand rebel prisoners, the rebels thirteen thousand Yankee prisoners. The Yankee conscript law has been enforced in twelve States, and brought fifty thousand men into the field and ten million dollars of substitute money in the treasury. He says the reports of the armies indicate that a large proportion will re-enlist if the government gives furloughs of one month before their terms expire. Says negro troops have shown sufficient courage as infantry soldiers.

The Secretary of the Navy opens his report with declaring what he knows to be false, that the blockade has been effectively maintained from Alexandria to the Rio Grande. Refers to the slow progress of the siege of Charleston. Over five months endeavor to capture the original seat of the insurrection and the disunion port is finally closed, and as a commercial port, Charleston has no existence, and if the rebels by great sacrifice and exhaustion hold out for a few weeks more, it is of no importance. Vessels lost by capture or destroyed to prevent them from falling into the hand of the rebels is 19, carrying 105 guns. He goes into a great rage over the exploits of the *Sumter*, *Alabama*, *Florida* and *Georgia*, and complains in the severest terms of European nations acknowledging the rebels as belligerents. Says the navy is composed of five hundred and eighty vessels, of which seventy-five are iron clad.

The number of vessels captured in attempting to run the blockade is one thousand and forty-five, value of prizes not less than thirteen million.

The Secretary of the Interior says the negroes from the South are unwilling to emigrate to Africa or Hayti.—Only four hundred and fifty have gone to Hayti. He questions the propriety of further effort to colonize them unless at some point in Central America, in the West, or on the new route to the Pacific, or be carried West to work on the Pacific Railroad. Thinks money appropriated by Congress to colonize them would be better spent in taking them to those places to labor where they can help to complete a work which of all others the nation has the deepest interest in except the subjugation of the rebellion.

The steamer *Chesapeake*, from New York to Portland, with a cargo valued at $180,000, was taken possession of on Monday, the 7th, by 16 rebels who were apparently unarmed passengers. The Captain was put in irons and the 2d engineer killed. The capture took place 21 miles Northeast of Cape Cod, and the captured officers and crew landed on Patridge Island. The steamer then started to sea and when last seen was lying alongside of another vessel, apparently taking in coal. A fleet of vessels have gone in pursuit.

A resolution has been adopted by the House of Representatives, at Washington, recommending that efforts be made to secure the exchange of prisoners in the hands of the rebels. Ayes 106, Nays 46.

Gold closed firm at 149.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS FOR THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.]

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1861, by J. S. Thrasher, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States of the Northern District of Georgia.

Congressional.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12.—The subject of retaining in service or discharging at the end of their term, the 3 years' men, elicits considerable attention at the hands of Congress, and is a matter that concerns the army and the country. The Secretary of War has already announced that they cannot be discharged. Some members favor their discharge, but leave them liable to conscription; others favor a reorganization and the privilege of electing their officers. An important petition was presented in the House from the first battalion of artillery from Alabama, which volunteered for three years for State defence, and before the Confederate government was formed, but were afterwards turned over to the Provisional Army. Since then they have not been allowed to choose their officers, and outsiders have been appointed to command them—that they have been treated cruelly and denied the privileges usually enjoyed by soldiers. Had they forseen the treatment not one would have volunteered.—All were dissatisfied and looked anxiously for the time of discharge. Not a single man wished to withdraw from the service as long as needed. Had been first to volunteer and would be last to refuse to serve. Were men of spirit and intelligence and unwilling to leave the future as the past, and therefore asks Congress if not discharged at the end of three years, to be allowed to reorganize the battalion and choose their own officers. Petition referred.

The Speaker announced the special committees on finances and illegal arrests and impressments. Resolution adopted calling upon the President for the names of privates mentioned by commanders or promoted for gallantry in battle. Also asking Secretary of the Treasury to prepare a statement of the value of all taxable property in the Confederate States on the basis of the census of 1860, if possible; if not, then according to census of 1850, with reasonable allowance for increase or decrease.—A series of strong resolutions on the abuses of the impressment law were referred. Bill to repeal act of the 27th April last. This act allows impressing officers to appeal to the decision of local appraiser as to rates fixed by State Commissioners. Referred.

The session of the House to-day was very short. Absent members are arriving.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12.—The President has informed the Committee of the Tobacco Trade of this city that the Confederate Government neither could, nor would object to the shipment of tobacco actually belonging to the French Government, if cleared from a Confederate port, and not to touch at any port of the United States. The Trade adopted a resolution declaring that said tobacco was not bought prior to the 4th of March 1861, as represented in the order of the Federal Government consenting to its removal.

Judge Ould has informed the Yankee authorities that no more food or clothing will be allowed to be delivered at City Point for prisoners in Richmond. After the present supplies are exhausted they will receive same rations as our soldiers in the field.

From Georgia and East Tennessee.

DALTON, Dec. 11.—The enemy are back at Chickamauga, leaving pickets at Missionary Ridge. Two corps crossed the river at Bridgeport and tore up the track at Whiteside's and Shell Mound. They tore up the railroad and used the wagon road. Three small boats are running up the river to Chattanooga. The indications are apparent that it is their intention to go into winter quarters in Tennessee, and send thirty thousand reinforcements to Meade. Grant supercedes him. Direct information places Longstreet at Bean's Station, fifty miles from Knoxville, on the 8th. Col. Ives, President's aid, has arrived, supposed to report condition of affairs.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

DALTON, Dec. 11.—Latest accounts received here represent Longstreet at Bean's Station, 20 miles beyond Knoxville, on Cumberland Gap road. State Guards reported to have been driven in on yesterday. No particulars.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 11.—The enemy again shelled the city at different intervals during the day. Soms six buildings were struck but no person injured. About nine o'clock, this morning, Fort Sumter took fire; cause unknown yet, and communicated to some outer timbers of the work in the southwest angle. The wood work was burned and some ammunition destroyed. Several casualties occurred. Particulars not yet received. The enemy's land Batteries opened heavily on the fort this morning, during the progress of the fire, which was replied to from Moultrie and our Batteries, and a heavy firing was kept up all day and ceased at dark. Damage to Sumter not material.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

CHARLESTON, Dec. 12.—At Fort Sumter, yesterday, there were ten killed and thirty wounded. Among the killed was Capt. Frost, A. C. S.; Serg't. Swanson, S. C. Artillery. Capt. Garland's company of regulars lost three killed and two wounded. Col. Elliott was slightly wounded in the head by a piece of brick, but remains in command. P. C. Elliott, of the signal corps, is among the seriously wounded. No firing last night. No more shelling of the city to-day.

Movements of Longstreet.

BRISTOL, Dec. 11.—Longstreet is slowly falling back from Morristown, presenting a bold front to the enemy, who, since the sharp skirmish at Morristown, have never pressed him. Our last advices represent him at Watauga river near Kingsport. As Cumberland Gap is no longer in his rear no apprehension of danger is felt for him. All the hospitals along the railroad have been emptied to receive his wounded, about six hundred.

Morgan Reported in Virginia.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12.—The *Enquirer* learns that Gen. Morgan has crossed the Ohio river near Ashland and will make his way to the Confederate lines. It is not known when he will visit Richmond. [Certainly not.—ED.

From Longstreet—The Situation more Hopeful.

BRISTOL, Dec. 12.—The news from the front is decidedly encouraging. Our cavalry are still at Morristown, and the enemy retiring. Since Longstreet has placed Cumberland Gap in front instead of the rear, Longstreet's, Ransom's and Vance's commands have been consolidated and perfect confidence is now felt that he will hold the country. Vaughn's command has also succeeded in joining the main body.

From Mississippi.

MOBILE, Dec. 12.—A special dispatch from Oxford, 11th, says Memphis papers are ominously silent on the recent

AUCTION AND PRIVATE SALES.

ATTRACTIVE SALE.

ON MONDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER, AT the late residence of Thos. J. Lemay, deceased, in the county of Johnston, 13 miles South-east of Raleigh, on the road leading from Rand's Mill to Smithfield, I will sell to the highest bidder all the crop of Corn, (150 bbls.) Fodder, Shucks, Wheat, Peas, Potatoes, &c., &c.

Also, about 35 fat Hogs, besides stock Hogs of Sows and Pigs, Shoats, six or seven Horses and Mules; all of the stock of Cattle, some very fine Milch Cows in the lot; a small flock of Sheep; all farm implements, consisting of Wagons, Carts, Plows and all other implements usually found on a well regulated plantation.

Also, one family Carriage, one Rockaway—harness to each.

Also, all the Household and Kitchen Furniture; the furniture in house consisting in part of fine Parlor Chairs, Tables, Carpets, Bed and Bed Clothing, Blankets, (good quality,) Bedsteads, Sideboards and many other articles now scarce and desirable, not necessary to mention.

Also, a large and well selected Library of Standard and Miscellaneous Books.

At the same time and place will be hired out for the next year some sixteen or eighteen likely Negroes, consisting of men, women and boys.

The sale to continue from day to day until all is sold. Terms made known on the day of sale.

A. T. MIAL,
Administrator.

Dec 9-6t

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE.

THE SUBSCRIBER OFFERS FOR SALE THE House and Lot in the Town of Hillsboro, now used as a factory. The building is 30x50 feet, with cellar and sheds on one side; is a well built house, sealed inside and painted inside and out; has a firstrate Pump and excellent water, ¾ of an acre of land, corner lot, and no building within seventy-five feet, consequeptly in no danger of fire from neighboring buildings; is well adapted for store room and tobacco factory. Price $2,500. The house cannot be built for double this amount.

GEORGE BISHOP,
Nov 30-t15D Hillsboro, N. C.
Standard copy.

AUCTION SALE.

I WILL SELL AT GRAHAM, N. C., DECEMBER 16, 1863, at Public Auction:

11 bbls. Holt's Whiskey and Brandy;
30 sacks Salt;
1 hhd. Eng. Island Molasses;
2½ bbls. Glue;
2 Buggies;
1 Wagon;
1 Cart;
1 Horse;
1 Piano;
1 Cooking Stove, complete;
The Crockery and Glassware and other Household Furniture belonging to the estate of Henry S. Blackwell, dec'd.

Terms, 6 months' credit or cash.

THOS. J. MITCHELL,
Nov 18-td Adm'r.

VALUABLE PLANTATIONS FOR SALE.

I OFFER FOR SALE THREE VALUABLE FARMS, two of them containing 800 acres each, and situated two miles from the Town of Windsor, in Bertie county, and about one mile from Cashie river. There is upon the premises all necessary buildings. On account of the location of course the lands are very valuable, being near the capitol of the county, and at a near point to ship produce by water. The third contains 500 acres, 5 miles from Roanoke river. There is upon the lands a neat Dwelling and all usual out-buildings. This Plantation is a very desirable one, and in fact all are in good state of cultivation, and the location healthy and society very good. The reputation of Bertie county lands is well know for the production of corn, cotton and peas, which is enough guarantee to the purchaser without further details. Apply to me at Windsor, N. C., or to JORDAN WOMBLE, Esq., at Raleigh, N. C.

Nov 20-1m* P. HENNEBERRY.

NOTICE.

I WILL SELL AT DURHAM'S, ON THE 16TH INstant, 12 likely young NEGROES, for cash.

Dec 3-td* R. P. MORRIS, Auctioneer.

NEW TANNERY.

MOSES & JORDAN WILL TAN ALL SPLIT Hides for one-third and all Skins for one-half. The owner of the hides shall have the preference of the Yard's part at what it is selling for from the Yard at the time. Location nine miles South-east of Raleigh, and within three-quarters of a mile of Auburn, on the N. C. R. R.

Dec 3-12t*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States:

FINANCES—CONTINUED.

The considerations just presented are greatly enforced by the reflection that any attempt to apportion taxes amongst States, some of which are wholly or partially in the occupation of hostile forces, would subvert the whole intention of the framers of the Constitution, and be productive of the most revolting injustice, instead of that just correlation between taxation and representation which it was their purpose to secure. With large portions of some of the States occupied by the enemy, what justice would there be in imposing on the remainder the whole amount of the taxation of the entire State in proportion to its representation? What else would this be in effect than to increase the burthen of those who are the heaviest sufferers by the war, and to make our own inability to protect them from invasion, as we are required to do by the Constitution, the ground for adding to their losses by an attempted adherence to the letter in violation of the spirit of that instrument? No such purpose could have been entertained, and no such result contemplated by the framers of the Constitution. It may add weight to these considerations if we reflect, that although the Constitution provided that it should go into operation with a representation temporarily distributed among the States, it expressly ordains, after providing for a census within three years, that this temporary distribution of representative power is to endure "until such enumeration shall be made." Would any one argue that because the census cannot be made within the fixed period, the government must, at the expiration of that period, perish for want of a representative body? In any aspect in which the subject can be viewed, I am led to the conclusion already announced, and which is understood to be in accordance with a vote taken in one or both Houses at your last session. I shall, therefore, until we are able to pursue the precise mode required by the Constitution, deem it my duty to approve any law levying the taxation which you are bound to impose for the defence of the country, in any other practicable mode which shall distribute the burthen uniformly and impartially on the whole property of the people.

In your former legislation you have sought to avoid the increase in the volume of notes in circulation, by offering inducements to voluntary funding. The measures adopted for that purpose have been but partially successful, and the evil has now reached such a magnitude as to permit no other remedy than the compulsory reduction of the currency to the amount required by the business of the country. This reduction should be accompanied by a pledge that under no stress of circumstances will that amount be exceeded. No possible mode of using the credit of the government can be so disastrous as one which disturbs the basis of all exchanges, renders impossible all calculations of future values, augments, in constantly increasing proportions, the price of all commodities, and so depreciates all fixed wages, salaries and incomes, as to render them inadequate to bare subsistance. If to these be added the still more fatal influence on the morals and character of the people, to which I have already adverted, I am persuaded you will concur in the conclusion that an inflexible adherence to a limitation of the currency at a fixed sum is, an indispensable element of any system of finances now to be adopted.

The holders of the currency now outstanding can only be protected in the recovery of their just claims by substituting for their notes some other security. If the currency is not greatly and promptly reduced, the present scale of inflated prices will not only continue to exist, but by the very fact of the large amounts thus made requisite in the conduct of the war, those prices will reach rates still more extravagant, and the whole system will fall under its own weight, thus rendering the redemption of the debt impossible, and destroying its whole value in the hands of the holder. If, on the contrary, a funded debt, with interest secured by adequate taxation can be substituted for the outstanding currency, its entire amount will be made available to the holder, and the government will be in a condition enabling it, beyond the reach of any probable contingency, to prosecute the war to a successful issue. It is, therefore, demanded, as well by the interest of the creditor as of the country at large, that the evidence of the public debt now outstanding in the shape of treasury notes, be converted into bonds bearing adequate interest, with a provision for taxation sufficient to ensure punctual payment, and final redemption of the whole debt.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury presents the outlines of a system which, in conjunction with existing legislation, is intended to secure the several objects of a reduction of the circulation within fixed, reasonable limits; of providing for the future wants of the government; of furnishing security for the punctual payment of interest and final extinction of the principal of the public debt; and of placing the whole business of the country on a basis as near a specie standard as is possible during the continuance of the war. I earnestly recommend it to your consideration, and that no delay be permitted to intervene before your action on this vital subject. I trust that it will be suffered to engross your attention until you shall have disposed of it in the manner best adapted to attain the important results which your country anticipates from your legislation.

It may be added that, in considering this subject, the people ought steadily to keep in view that the government, in contracting debt, is but their agent; that its debt is their debt. As the currency is held exclusively by ourselves, it is obvious that, if each person held Treasury notes in exact proportion to the value of his whole means, each would in fact owe himself the amount of the notes held by him, and, were it possible to distribute the currency among the people in this exact proportion, a tax levied on the currency alone to an amount sufficient to reduce it to proper limits, would afford the best of all remedies. Under such circumstances the notes remaining in the hands of each holder, after the payment of his tax, would be worth quite as much as the whole sum previously held, for it would purchase at least an equal amount of commodities. This result cannot be perfectly attained by any device of legislation, but it can be approximated by taxation. A tax on all values has for its effect, not only to impose a due share of the burthen on the note holder, but to force those who have few or none of the notes, to part with a share of their possession to those who hold the notes in excess, in order to obtain the means of satisfying the demands of the tax gatherer.—This is the only mode by which it is practicable to make all contribute as equal as possible in the burthen which all are bound to share, and it is for this reason that taxation adequate to the public exigencies, under our present circumstances, must be the basis of any funding system, or other remedy for restoring stability to our finances.

THE ARMY.

To the report of the Secretary of War you are referred for details relative to the condition of the army, and the measures of legislation required for maintaining its efficiency, recruiting its numbers, and furnishing the supplies necessary for its support.

Though we have lost many of the best of our soldiers, and most patriotic of our citizens, (the sad but unavoidable result of the battles and toils of such a campaign as that which will render the year 1863 ever memorable in our annals,) the army is believed to be, in all respects, in better condition than at any previous period of the war. Our gallant defenders, now veterans, familiar with danger, hardened by exposure, and confident in themselves and their officers, endure privations with cheerful fortitude, and welcome battle with alacrity. The officers, by experience in field service and the action of examining boards in relieving the incompetent, are now greatly more efficient than at the commencement of the war. The assertion is believed to be fully justified, that, regarded as a whole, for character, valor, efficiency and patriotic devotion, our army has not been equalled by any like number of troops in the history of war.

In view of the large conscription recently ordered by the enemy, and their subsequent call for volunteers, to be followed, if ineffectual, by a still further draft, we are admonished that no effort must be spared to add largely to our effective force as promptly as possible. The sources of supply are to be found by restoring to the army all who are improperly absent, putting an end to substitution, modifying the exemption law, restricting details, and placing in the ranks such of the able bodied men now employed as wagoners, nurses, cooks, and other employees as are doing service for which the negroes may be found competent.

The act of 16th April, 1862, provides "that persons not liable for duty may be received as substitutes for those who are, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War." The policy of granting this privilege has not been sustained by experience. Not only has the numerical strength of the army been seriously impaired by the frequent desertions for which substitutes have become notorious, but dissatisfaction has been excited among those who have been unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded of avoiding the military service of their country.

I fully concur in the opinion expressed by the Secretary, that there is no ground for the objection that a new provision, to include those who furnished substitutes under the former call, would be a breach of contract. To accept a substitute was to confer a privilege, not to enter into a contract, and whenever the substitute is rendered liable to conscription, it would seem to follow that the principal, whose place he had taken, should respond for him, as the government had received no consideration for his exemption. Where, however, the new provision of law would fail to embrace a substitute now in the ranks, there appears, if the principal should be again conscribed, to be an equitable ground for compensation to the conscript, who then would have added to the service a soldier not otherwise liable to enrollment.

On the subject of exemptions, it is believed that abuses cannot be checked unless the system is placed on a basis entirely different from that now provided by law. The object of your legislation has been, not to confer privileges on classes, but to exonerate from military duty such number of persons skilled in the various trades, professions, and mechanical pursuits, as could render more valuable services to their country by laboring in their present occupation than by going into the ranks of the army. The policy is unquestionable, but the result would, it is thought, be better obtained by enrolling all such persons, and allowing details to be made of the number necessary to meet the wants of the country. Considerable numbers are believed to be now exempted from the military service who are not needful to the public in their civil vocation.

Certain duties are now performed throughout the country by details from the army, which could be as well executed by persons above the present conscript age. An extension of the limit, so as to embrace persons over forty-five years, and physically fit for service in guarding posts, railroads and bridges, in apprehending deserters, and where practicable, assuming the place of younger men detailed for duty with the nitre, ordnance, commissary and quartermasters' bureaux of the War Department, would, it is hoped, add largely to the affective force in the field, without an undue burthen on the population.—If to the above measures be added a law to enlarge the policy of the act of the 21st April, 1862, so as to enable the Department to replace not only enlisted cooks, but wagoners, and other employees in the army, by negroes, it is hoped that the ranks of the army will be so strengthened, for the ensuing campaign, as to put at defiance the utmost efforts of the enemy.

In order to maintain, unimpaired, the existing organization of the army until the close of the war, your legislation contemplated a frequent supply of recruits, and it was expected that before the expiration of the three years for which the men were enrolled under act of 16th April, 1862, the majority of men in each company would consist of those who joined it at different dates subsequent to the original muster of the company into service, and that the discharge of those who had completed their term would at no time be sufficient to leave the company with a less number than is required to enable it to retain its organization. The difficulty of obtaining recruits from certain localities, and the large number of exemptions from military service granted by different laws, have prevented sufficient accessions in many of the companies to preserve their organizations after the discharge of the original members. The advantage of retaining tried and well approved officers and of mingling recruits with experienced soldiers is so obvious, and the policy of such a course is so clearly indicated that it is not deemed necessary to point out the evil consequences which would result from the destruction of the old organization, or to dwell upon the benefits to be secured from filling up the veteran companies as long before the discharge of the early members as may be possible. In the cases where it may be found impracticable to maintain regiments in sufficient strength to justify the retention of the present organization, economy and efficiency would be promoted by consolidation and re-organization. This would involve the necessity of disbanding a part of the officers, and making regulations for securing the most judicious selection of those who are retained, while least wounding the feelings of those who are discharged.

Experience has shown the necessity for further legislation in relation to the horses of the cavalry. Many men lose their horses by casualties of service which are not included in the provisions made to compensate the owner for the loss, and it may thus not unfrequently happen that the most efficient troopers, without fault of their own, indeed, it may be because of their zeal and activity, are lost to the cavalry service.

It would also seem proper that the government should have complete control over every horse mustered into service, with the limitation that the owner should not be deprived of his horse except upon due compensation being made therefor. Otherwise, mounted men may not keep horses fit for the service; and the question whether they should serve mounted or on foot, would depend, not upon the qualifications of the men, but upon the fact of their having horses.

Some provision is deemed requisite to correct the evils arising from the long continued absence of commissioned officers. Where it is without sufficient cause, it would seem but just that the commission should be thereby vacated.

Where it results from capture by the enemy, which, under their barbarous refusal to exchange prisoners of war, may be regarded as absence for an indefinite time, there is a necessity to supply their places in their respective commands. This might be done by temporary appointments to endure only until the return of the officers regularly commissioned. Where it results from permanent disability incurred in the line of their duty, it would be proper to retire them and fill the vacancies according to established mode. I would also suggest the organization of an invalid corps, and that the retired officers be transferred to it. Such a corps, it is thought, could be made useful in various employments, for which efficient officers and troops are now detached.

An organization of the general staff of the army, would be highly conductive to the efficiency of that most important branch of the service. The plan adopted for the military establishment, furnishes a model for the staff of the provisional army, if it be deemed advisable to retain the distinction, but I recommend to your consideration the propriety of establishing it, and providing for the organization of the several staff corps in such number and with such rank as will meet all the wants of the service. To secure the requisite ability for the more important positions, it will be necessary to provide for officers of higher rank than is now authorized for these corps. To give to the officers the proper relation and co-intelligence in their respective corps, and, to preserve in the chief of each, useful influence and control over his subordinates, there should be no gradation on the basis of the rank of the general with whom they might be serving by appointment. To the personal staff of a general, it would seem proper to give a grade corresponding with his rank, and the number might be fixed to correspond with his command. To avoid the consequence of discharge upon a change of duty, the variable portion of the personal staff might be taken from the line of the army, and allowed to retain their line commissions.

The disordered condition of the currency to which I have already alluded, has imposed on the government a system of supplying the wants of the army which is so unequal in its operation, vexatious to the producer, injurious to the industrial interest, and productive of such discontent among the people, as only to be justified by the existence of an absolute necessity. The report of the Secretary on this point establishes conclusively, that the necessity which has forced the bureaux of supply, to provide for the army by impressment, has resulted from the impossibility of purchase by contract or in the open market except at such rapidly increased rates as would have rendered the appropriations inadequate to the wants of the army. Indeed, it is believed that the temptation to hoard supplies for the higher prices which could be anticipated with certainty, has been checked mainly by the fear of the operation of the impressment law; and that commodities have been offered in the markets, principally to escape impressment, and obtain higher rates than those fixed by appraisement. The complaints against this vicious system have been well founded, but the true cause of the evil has been misapprehended. The remedy is to be found, not in a change of the impressment law, but in the restoration of the currency to such a basis as will enable the department to purchase necessary supplies in the open market, and thus render impressment a rare and exceptional process.

The same remedy will effect the result universally desired, of an augmentation of the pay of the army. The proposals made at your previous sessions, to increase the pay of the soldier by an additional amount of Treasury notes, would have conferred little benefit on him, but a radical reform of the currency will restore the pay to a value approximating that which it originally had, and materially improve its condition.

The reports from the ordnance and mining bureaux are very gratifying, and the extension of our means of supply of arms and munitions of war, from our home resources, has been such as to ensure our ability soon to become mainly, if not entirely, independent of supplies from foreign countries. The establishments for the casting of guns and projectiles; for the manufacture of small arms and of gunpowder; for the supply of nitre from artificial nitre beds, and mining operations generally, have been so distributed through the country as to place our resources beyond the reach of partial disasters.

The recommendations of the Secretary of War on other points are minutely detailed in his report, which is submitted to you, and extending, as they do, to almost every branch of the service, merit careful consideration.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

I regret to inform you that the enemy have returned to the barbarous policy with which they inaugurated the war, and that the exchange of prisoners has been for some time suspended. The correspondence of the Commissioners of Exchange is submitted to you by the Secretary of War, and it has already been published for the information of all now suffering useless imprisonment. The conduct of the authorities of the United States has been consistently perfidious on this subject. An agreement for exchange in the incipiency of the war had just been concluded when the fall of Fort Donelson reversed the previous state of things, and gave them an excess of prisoners. The agreement was immediately repudiated by them, and so remained till the fortune of war again placed us in possession of the larger number. A new cartel was then made, and, under it, for many months, we restored to them many thousands of prisoners, in excess of those whom they held for exchange, and encampments of the surplus paroled prisoners, delivered up by us, were established in the United States, where the men were able to receive the comforts and solace of constant communication with their homes and families. In July last, the fortune of war again favored the enemy, and they were enabled to exchange for duty the men previously delivered to them, against those captured and paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The prisoners taken at Gettysburg, however, remained in their hands, and should have been returned to our lines on parole, to await exchange. Instead of executing a duty imposed by the plainest dictates of justice and good faith, pretexts were instantly sought for holding them in permanent captivity. General orders rapidly succeeded each other from the bureau at Washington, placing new constructions on an agreement which had given rise to no dispute while we retained the advantage in the number of prisoners. With a disregard of honorable obligations almost unexampled, the enemy did not hesitate, in addition to retaining the prisoners captured by them, to declare null the paroles given by the prisoners captured by us in the same series of engagements, and liberated on condition of not again serving until exchanged. They have since openly insisted on treating the paroles given by their own soldiers as invalid, and those of our own soldiers, given under precisely similar circumstances, as binding. A succession of similar unjust pretensions has been set up in a correspondence tediously prolonged, and every device employed to cover the disregard of an obligation, which, between belligerent nations, is only to be enforced by the sense of honor.

No farther comment is needed on this subject, but it may be permitted to direct your special attention to the close of the correspondence submitted to you, from which you will perceive that the final proposal made by the enemy, in settlement of all disputes under the cartel is, that we should liberate all prisoners held by us, without the offer to release from captivity any of those held by them.

In the meantime a systematic and concerted effort has been made to quiet the complaints in the United States of those relatives and friends of the prisoners in our hands who are unable to understand why the cartel is not executed in their favor by the groundless assertion that we are the parties who refuse compliance. Attempts are also made to shield themselves from the execration excited by their own odious treatment of our officers and soldiers now captive in their hands, by mis-statements, such as that the prisoners held by us are deprived of food. To this last accusation the conclusive answer has been made that, in accordance with our law and the general orders of the department, the rations of the prisoners are precisely the same, in quality and quantity, as those served out to our own gallant soldiers in the field, and which have been found sufficient to support them in their arduous campaign, while it is not pretended by the enemy that they treat prisoners by the same generous rule. By an indulgence, perhaps unprecedented, we have even allowed the prisoners in our hands to be supplied by their friends at home with comforts not enjoyed by the men who captured them in battle. In contrast to this treatment, the most revolting inhumanity has characterized the conduct of the United States towards prisoners held by them. One prominent fact, which admits no denial or palliation, must suffice as a test. The officers of our army, natives of Southern and semi-tropical climates, and unprepared for the cold of a Northern winter, have been conveyed for imprisonment during the rigors of the present season, to the most Northern and exposed situation that could be selected by the enemy. There, beyond the reach of comforts, and often even of news from home and family, exposed to the piercing cold of the Northern lakes, they are held by men who cannot be ignorant of, even if they do not design, the probable result. How many of our unfortunate friends and comrades, who have passed unscathed through numerous battels, will perish on Johnson's Island, under the cruel trial to which they are subjected, none but the Omniscient can foretell. That they will endure this barbarous treatment with the same stern fortitude that they have ever evinced in their country's service, we cannot doubt. But who can be found to believe the assertion that it is our refusal to execute the cartel, and not the malignity of the foe, which has caused the infliction of such intolerable cruelty on our own loved and honored defenders?

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT.

Regular and punctual communication with the Trans-Mississippi is so obstructed as to render difficult a compliance with much of the legislation vesting authority in the Executive branch of the Government. To supply vacancies in office; to exercise discretion on certain matters connected with the military organizations; to control the distribution of the funds collected from taxation or remitted from the treasury; to carry on the operations of the Post-Office Department, and other like duties require under the Constitution and existing laws, the action of the President and heads of Departments. The necessities of the military service frequently forbid delay, and some legislation is required, providing for the exercise of temporary authority, until regular action can be had at the seat of Government. I would suggest, especially in the Post Office Department, that an assistant be provided for the States beyond the Mississippi, with authority in the head of that department to vest in this assistant all such powers now exercised by the Postmaster General, as may be requisite for provisional control of the funds of the department in those States, and their application to the payment of mail contractors; for superintendence of the local post offices, and the contracts for carrying the mail, for the temporary employment of proper persons to fulfill the duties of postmasters and contractors in urgent cases, until appointments can be made, and for other other like purposes. Without some legislative provision on the subject, there is serious risk of the destruction of the mail service, by reason of the delays and hardships suffered by contractors under the present system, which requires constant reference to Richmond of their accounts, as well as of the returns of the local postmasters, before they can receive payment for services rendered. Like provision is also necessary in the Treasury Department; while for military affairs it would seem to be sufficient to authorize the President and Secretary of War to delegate to the commanding general so much of the discretionary powers vested in them by law as the exigencies of the service shall require.

NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy gives in detail the operations of that Department since January last, embracing information of the disposition and employment of the vessels, officers and men, and the construction of vessels at Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Selma, and on the rivers Roanoke, Neuse, Pedee, Chattahoochee and Tombigbee; the accumulation of ship timber and supplies, and the manufacture of ordnance and ordnance stores and equipments. The foundries and workshops have been greatly improved, and their capacity to supply all demands for heavy ordnance for coast and harbor defences is only limited by our deficiency in the requisite skilled labor. The want of such labor and of seamen seriously affects the operations of the Department.

The skill, courage and activity of our cruisers at sea cannot be too highly commended. They have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, without suffering a single disaster, and have seriously damaged the shipping interests of the United States by compelling their foreign commerce to seek the protection of neutral flags.

Your attention is invited to the suggestions of the report on the subjects of supplying seamen for the service, and of the provisions of the law in relation to the volunteer navy.

POST OFFICE.

The Postmaster General reports the receipts of that Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, to have been $3,337,853 01, and the expenditures for the same period $2,662,804 67. The statement thus exhibits an excess of receipts amounting to $675,048 44, instead of the deficiency of more than a million dollars, as was the case in the preceding fiscal year. It is gratifying to perceive that the Department has thus been made self-sustaining, in accordance with sound principle, and with the express requirement of the Constitution that its expenses should be paid out of its own revenues after the 1st March, 1863.

The report gives a full and satisfactory account of the operations of the Post Office Department for the last year, and explains the measures adopted for giving more certainty and regularity to the service in the States beyond the Mississippi, and on which reliance is placed for obviating the difficulties heretofore encountered in that service.

The settlement of the accounts of the Department is greatly delayed by reason of the inability of the First Auditor to perform all the duties now imposed on him by law. The accounts of the Departments of State, of the Treasury, of the Navy, and of Justice, are all supervised by that officer, and more than suffice to occupy his whole time. The necessity for a Third Auditor to examine and settle the accounts of a Department so extensive as that of the Post Office appears urgent, and his recommendation on that subject meets my concurrence.

CONDUCT OF THE ENEMY.

I cannot close this Message without again adverting to the savage ferocity which still marks the conduct of the enemy in the prosecution of the war. After their repulse from the defences before Charleston, they first sought revenge by an abortive attempt to destroy the city with an incendiary composition, thrown by improved artillery, from a distance of four miles. Failing in this, they changed their missiles, but fortunately have thus far succeeded only in killing two women in the city. Their commanders, Butler, McNeil and Turchin, whose horrible barbarities have made their names widely notorious, and everywhere execrable, are still honored and cherished by the authorities at Washington. The first named after having been withdrawn from the scenes of his cruelties against women and prisoners of war, (in reluctant concession to the demands of outraged humanity in Europe,) has just been put in a new command at Norfolk where helpless women and children are again placed at his mercy.

Nor has less unrelenting warfare been waged by these pretended friends of human rights and liberties against the unfortunate negroes. Wherever the enemy have been able to gain access they have forced into the ranks of their army every able-bodied man that they could seize; and have either left the aged, the women and the children, to perish by starvation, or have gathered them into camps where they have been wasted by a frightful mortality. Without clothing or shelter, often without food, incapable, without supervisions, of taking the most ordinary precautions against disease, these helpless dependents, accustomed to have their wants supplied by the foresight of their masters, are being rapidly exterminated, wherever brought in contact with the invaders. By the Northern race, on whose deeply rooted prejudices no kindly restraining influence is exercised, they are treated with aversion and neglect. There is little hazard in predicting that, in all localities where the enemy have gained a temporary foothold, the negroes, who under our care increased six fold in number since their importation into the colonies of Great Britain, will have been reduced by mortality during the war to not more than one-half their previous number.

Information on this subject is derived not only from our own observation and from the reports of the negroes who succeeded in escaping from the enemy, but full confirmation is afforded by statements published in the Northern journals by humane persons, engaged in making appeals to the charitable for aid in preventing the ravages of disease, exposure and starvation among the negro women and children who are crowded into encampments.

The frontier of our country bears witness to the alacrity and efficiency with which the general orders of the enemy have been executed in the devastation of the farms, the destruction of the agricultural implements, the burning of the houses, and the plunder of everything movable. Its whole aspect is a comment on the ethics of the general order issued by the United States on the 24th of April, 1863, comprising "instructions for the government of armies of the United States in the field," and of which the following is an example:

"Military necessity admits of all direct destruction of life or limb of armed enemies, and of other persons whose destruction is incidentally unavoidable in the armed contests of the war; it allows of the capturing of every armed enemy, and of every enemy of importance to the hostile government, or of peculiar danger to the captor; it allows of all destruction of property and obstructions of the ways and channels of traffic, travel or communication, and all withholding of sustenance or means of life from the enemy; of the appropriation of whatever an enemy's country affords necessary for the subsistence and safety of the army, and of such deception as does not involve the breaking of good faith, either positively pledged regarding agreements entered into during the war, or supposed by the modern law of war to exist. Men who take up arms against one another in public war, do not cease on this account to be moral beings, responsible to one another and to God."

The striking contrast to these teachings and practices presented by our army when invading Pennsylvania, illustrates the moral character of our people. Though their forbearance may have been unmerited and unappreciated by the enemy, it was imposed by their own self-respect, which forbade their degenerating from Christian warriors into plundering ruffians, assailing the property, lives and honor of helpless non-combatants. If their conduct, when thus contrasted with the inhuman practices of our foe, fail to command the respect and sympathy of civilized nations in our day, it cannot fail to be recognized by their less deceived posterity.

The hope last year entertained of an early termination of the war has not been realized. Could carnage have satisfied the appetite of our enemy for the destruction of human life, or grief have appeased their wonton desire to inflict human suffering, there has been blood-shed enough on both sides, and two lands have been sufficiently darkened by the weeds of mourning, to induce a disposition for peace.

If unanimity in a people could dispel delusion, it has been displayed too unmistakably not to have silenced the pretence that the Southern States were merely distributed by a factious insurrection, and it must long since have been admitted that they were but exercising their reserved right to modify their own government in such manner as would best secure their own happiness. But these considerations have been powerless to allay the unchristian hate of those who, long accustomed to draw large profit from a union with us, cannot control the rage excited by the conviction that they have, by their own folly, destroyed the richest sources of their prosperity.—They refuse even to listen to proposals for the only peace possible between us—a peace which, recognising the impassable gulf which divides us, may leave the two peoples separately to recover from the injuries inflicted on both by the causeless war now waged against us. Having begun the war in direct violation of their Constitution, which forbade the attempt to coerce a State, they have been hardened by crime, until they no longer attempt to veil their purpose to destroy the institutions and subvert the sovereignty and independence of these States. We now know that the only reliable hope for peace is in the vigor of our resistance, while the cessation of their hostility is only to be expected from the pressure of their necessities.

The patriotism of the people has proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by their country's need. We have been united as a people never were united under like circumstances before. God has blessed us with success disproportionate to our means; and under His divine favor, our labors must at last be crowned with the reward due to men who have given all they possessed to the righteous defence of their inalienable rights, their homes and their altars.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Richmond, Dec. 7, 1863.

Funeral Notice.

The funeral of the late FREDERICK RICHARD BRYAN will take place from the Episcopal Church in this city, this afternoon at 3½ o'clock.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

IMPORTANT AUCTION SALE.

ON TUESDAY NEXT, THE 15TH INSTANT, WE will sell in front of our Sales Room, to the highest bidder, $30,000 N. C. State Bonds, issued for the benefit of the Chatham Railroad Company, bearing six per cent interest. They are secured by a special Sinking Fund for their redemption, in addition to the general credit of the State. Interest payable semi-annually, and principal due Januar 1st, 1883. It is expected that other bonds will be added to the sale, as well as a lot of Gold Coin.

In addition to the above we will sell two Barrels Old Apple Brandy; twenty-five gallons Old Cognac; 3 boxes Manufactured Tobacco; a small lot of Brown Sugar; 1 Two-Horse Wagon, nearly new; 2 sets Single Harness; 1 Saddle and a Ladies Double Rein Bridle; 1 Double Barrel Gun. Also, a codsiderable lot of Household Furniture, consisting of Bedsteads, Spring Mattress, Mahogany Hat Rack and Work Stand; a set of Albata Tea Ware. Many other articles will be added to the sale. The bonds will be sold at 12 M., and the general sale will commence at 11 o'clock.

CREECH & LITCHFORD,
Auctioneers.
Dec 14-2t

IMPORTANT SALE OF FURNITURE IN GREENSBORO, N. C.

WILL BE SOLD, AT AUCTION, FOR CASH, ON Tuesday and Wednsday, the 22d instant, a large amount of valuable property belonging to the Trustees of G. F. College, consisting of Pianos, Parlor Furniture, Beds, Mattrasses, Blankets, Sheets, Comforts, Table Ware, Washbowls, Bedsteads, Pitchers, Chairs, Hogs, Cattle, &c.

The Trustees have ordered the sale of this property because it is liable to become damaged for want of suitable rooms in which to store it.

N. H. D. WILSON,
Dec 14-td Sec. of the Board.

NOTICE

STRAYED FROM THE SUBSCRIBER ON SUNday, the 6th December, two Mules and one Horse. One of the Mules is a dark bay, with a scar on his hind ankle, the other a light bay. The Horse is a very dark bay, very tall, both hind feet white. I will pay a liberal reward for information so I can get them. I suppose they are trying to get back to Kinston.

J. P. HARDEE.
Dec 14-tf

FOR SALE, TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN PEWTER CANDLE MOULDS.

JUST RECEIVED, TWELVE STANDS OF SUPErior Pewter Candle Moulds, each stand containing 18 Moulds, all complete with wires, wick hook and scraper. Six candles weigh 14½ ounces to the pound. Apply to

M. GRUSMAN,
Dec 14-3t* Fayetteville street, Raleigh, N. C.

VALUABLE HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE IN FRANKLINTON, N. C.

HOUSE CONTAINING SIX FINE ROOMS, GOOD duble office with two rooms, good garden, granary and necessary out-houses. Address

J. A. PITMAN,
Dec 14-3t* Franklinton, N. C.

WANTED TO HIRE,

AT THE RALEIGH BAYONET FACTORY, FOR the next year, seven Negro Blacksmiths. None need apply except No. 1 Smiths.

HECK, BRODIE & CO.
Dec 14-2w*

LOST,

YESTERDAY, BETWEEN GEO. T. COOKE'S AND the Presbyterian Church, a black lace Veil. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it at the Progress office.
Dec 14-1*

DAILY PROGRESS.

MONDAY, DEC. 14, 1863.

Adjournment of the Legislature.

The Assembly adjourns at 9 o'clock this morning to meet again on the third Tuesday in May. We give the proceedings up to the adjournment, Saturday night, and the Captions of the Acts, Resolutions, &c., passed, in this issue.

Captions.

Extra copies of the *Progress* of this day containing the Captions of the Acts passed at the present session of the Legislature, can be had at the Counting Room.

The News.

We must refer the reader to the telegraphic head for war news. The Message, Legislative Proceedings and the Captions have so crowded our columns that we have no room for comments.

The Richmond papers of Saturday contain a very foolish rumor, said to be based on a dispatch from one of the President's aids, to the effect that Chattanooga has been, or is being evacuated. Don't believe a word of it.

Advertisements, army letters and other matter has been crowded out of this paper, all of which will appear in our next.

TWO TRACTS OF LAND FOR SALE.

ON THE 18TH OF DECEMBER NEXT, AT THE late residunce of Toliver Terrell, deceased, in the county of Franklin, 9 miles North of Louisburg and 5 miles South of Jones' Springs, I will sell by public vendue, five or six hundred acres of Land, on the East end of the tract on which my Testator lived. This tract has 100 acres of low grounds, on Sandy Creek, besides high land now fenced and under cultivation—150 acres in virgin growth, of the very best Tobacco Land, and much in second growth of pines that will produce Tobacco without the aid of stimulants.

Also, one other tract of about 150 acres, on the West end of the same tract. About 50 acres in the best virgin growth, the balance enclosed and under cultivation. No buildings on either tract, but good building sites and timber in abundance and convenient on each.

At the same time will be sold the crops of Corn, Fodder and Shucks, stock of Hogs and Cattle, 2 Mules, 1 Yoke Oxen, Wheat Thrasher, Fan Mill, Family Carriage, 1 Road Wagon, Ox Wagon, a 1 Horse Wagon, Corn Sheller, St. Clair's Straw Cutter, 1 set Grist Mill Irons, 1 set Saw Mill Irons, 1 pair Mill Stones, a good selection of Books, and a live bear 2 years old. Also, 20 hhds. Tobacco.

TERMS.—Twelve months credit or cash for any of the property.

The land will be sold at 2 o'clock precisely. The other property at the usual hour.

N. B. MASSENBURG,
Dec 20-5t* Executor of Toliver Terrell, dec'd.

CONFEDERATE TAX NOTICE.

THE ASSESSORS WILL ATTEND AT MY OFFICE in the City of Raleigh daily, (Sundays excepted,) from the fourth to the thirty-first day of January next, for the purpose of receiving returns of all subjects of taxation, in accordance with "an act to lay taxes for the common defence, and carry on the Government of the Confederate States," approved April 24th, 1863, as follows:

1st. Every person engaged in any trade, business or occupation mentioned in the fifth section of said act, requiring quarterly returns of gross sales to be made, will make them and pay the tax thereon; and those who continue the same, will pay the specific tax for the year 1864.

2nd. Every person, joint-stock company and corporation, will make return of the income and profits derived by them from every occupation, employment or business, whether registered or not, in which they may have been engaged, and from every investment of labor, skill, property or money, and the income and profits derived from any source whatever from the 1st day of January, 1863, to the first day of January, 1864.

3rd. Returns will be received of all agricultural products taxed in kind, and the value of all neat cattle, horses, mules not used in cultivation, and asses owned by each person on the first of November last, which have not heretofore been given in.

4th. It having been decided by the Commissioner of Taxes, "that all moneys, bank notes and other currency (not specially exempted in the tax act) on hand or deposit on the first day of July last, whether held by bankers, auctioneers, merchants, commission merchants, farmers, lawyers or doctors, including all other persons, firms, companies or corporations are taxable." I therefore notify all persons concerned, who have not heretofore done so, to make immediate return and pay taxes on the same. If in any of the above cases the owner of the money on deposit or in the hands of another has heretofore given it in, the corporation or person holding it at the time will not be required to give it in again.

5th. All persons who have neglected to give in according to law, and those who have given in and have not paid, are requested to do so immediately, otherwise the penalties of the law will be enforced.

RUFUS H. PAGE,
Dec 8-10t Collector for Wake County.
Standard copy weekly and semi-weekly 5 times each.

Merchants' Bank of Newbern,

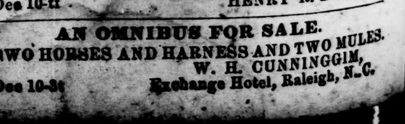
GREENSBORO', N. C., Dec. 7, 1863.

A DIVIDEND OF FOUR PER CENT. ON THE Capital Stock of this Bank, for the last six months, has been declared payable on demand.

W. W. CLARK, Cashier.
Dec 12-3t*

Office Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Co.,

RALEIGH, Dec. 11, 1863.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS COMPAny have declared a semi-annual dividend of 10 per cent., payable in Confederate currency, on and after Monday the 5th day of January, 1864.

W. W. VASS, Treasurer.
Dec 12-3taw5J

WANTED,

$20,000 IN NORTH CAROLINA TREASURY Notes, 1s and 2s, wanted for which the highest premium will be paid.

W. R. RICHARDSON & CO.
Oct 29-tf

STRAYED,

FROM THE SUBSCRIBER, ABOUT THE FIRST of October, one large Ox, mostly black, white face, tips of the horns sawed off—marks not recollected.—When last heard from he was at Dr. Leach's, in John son county, and is no doubt trying to get back to the Eastern part of the State, where he was raised. A liberal reward will be paid for his recovery.

L. F. KOONCE,
Dec 10-4t Raleigh, N. C.
Standard copy 3t weekly and send bill to L. L. K.

A SMALL FARM FOR SALE,

WITHIN TWO MILES OF RALEIGH, ON THE Haywood road. There is a new Framed Dwelling, with two good sized rooms and a kitchen. On another part of the land is a comfortable Log Dwelling.—The whole contains 31 acres—12 acres cleared and under a good fence—the balance has a flourishing growth of young pine, oak and hickory, with some large pine trees. For terms, enquire of the Editor of the Spirit of the Age.
Dec 10-2t

A TEACHER.

A DISCHARGED SOLDIER, HAVING BEEN DEprived of the means of support by the Yankees, wishes to obtain a situation as Teacher in some Village School or private family. He has no objection to a country School, if the walk is not over half a mile. He is a graduate, though rusty in the Languages. Has good references. Address R. A. EDMUND, Progress office, Raleigh, N. C.
Dec 10-2t*

RANAWAY—$100 REWARD.

RANAWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER, NEAR Raleigh, my negro man SAUNDERS. He is black, about 48 years of age, 5½ feet high; has lost one of his front teeth; is bow-legged, and speaks fluently and politely when spoken to. He is probably endeavoring to reach Newbern. I will give $100 reward for his apprehension, if out of Wake county, and $50 if caught in Wake.

HENRY R. BRYAN.
Dec 10-tf

AN OMNIBUS FOR SALE.

TWO HORSES AND HARNESS AND TWO MULES.

W. H. CUNNINGIM,
Dec 10-3t Exchange Hotel, Raleigh, N. C.